

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 226141  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02  
SSM-05 SSO-00 PA-02 NSCE-00 SY-05 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)  
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA - MR. NEUMANN  
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER  
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH  
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY  
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----050078 210336Z /66

O 202339Z SEP 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 226141

USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
USCINCEUR  
DOD/JCS  
CIA

USIA

UNCLAS STATE 226141

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - SEPTEMBER 20

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 1977. FYI ONLY, THE OFFICER DOING THE BRIEFING TODAY WAS TOM RESTON.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY EVALUATION FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE OF WHETHER THE INITIAL TALKS YESTERDAY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN HAVE CONTRIBUTED TOWARD IMPROVING THE PROSPECTS FOR A GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR?

A. WE FOUND THEM CONSTRUCTIVE AND USEFUL, AND THE PRESIDENT LISTENED VERY CAREFULLY TO THE DRAFT PEACE PROPOSALS WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER BROUGHT WITH HIM; AND WE THINK THAT THOSE PROPOSALS AND OUR DISCUSSIONS YESTERDAY WILL BE USEFUL TO US IN TERMS OF FORMING OUR OWN IDEAS AND IN TERMS OF DISCUSSING IDEAS WITH ARAB LEADERS WHO WILL BE HERE AND IN NEW YORK. SO I THINK I'D PUT THE EMPHASIS ON THE WORD "CONSTRUCTIVE."

PAGE 03 STATE 226141

DENT LISTENED VERY CAREFULLY TO THE DRAFT PEACE PROPOSALS WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER BROUGHT WITH HIM; AND WE THINK THAT THOSE PROPOSALS AND OUR DISCUSSIONS YESTERDAY WILL BE USEFUL TO US IN TERMS OF FORMING OUR OWN IDEAS AND IN TERMS OF DISCUSSING IDEAS WITH ARAB LEADERS WHO WILL BE HERE AND IN NEW YORK. SO I THINK I'D PUT THE EMPHASIS ON THE WORD "CONSTRUCTIVE."

Q. TOM, THE USE OF THE WORD "CONSTRUCTIVE" IMPLIES THAT THEY'RE BUILDING ON SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED BEFORE. IS THAT IN FACT THE CASE?

A. I DON'T THINK IT WOULD NECESSARILY IMPLY THAT; BUT, AS WE'VE SAID ALL ALONG, THIS IS A PROCESS THAT STARTED EARLIER IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND WILL CONTINUE HERE AND IN NEW YORK AND THEN BEYOND, WE TRUST.

Q. HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THAT PART OF THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH PERTAIN TO THE PROBLEM OF REPRESENTATION FOR THE PALESTINIANS AT A PEACE CONFERENCE?

A. WE'D CALL THAT PART CONSTRUCTIVE. WELL, I'M GENERALLY FOLLOWING WHAT JODY WAS SAYING AT THE WHITE HOUSE YESTERDAY, AND "CONSTRUCTIVE" WAS THE WORD WHICH JODY USED; AND I CHECKED WITH THE SECRETARY LAST NIGHT WHEN HE CAME BACK FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, AND THIS IS JUST THE WAY WE WANT TO PLAY IT. I THINK THAT IT'S AN APPRO-

PRIATE WORD TO USE.

Q. DO YOU THINK THAT THE GAP BETWEEN THE SIDES ON THE QUESTION OF REPRESENTATION IS NARROWING, BEING NARROWED?

A. I WOULDN'T WANT TO COMMENT FURTHER.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE A GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST THIS YEAR?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 226141

A. WE'VE SAID THAT THAT'S OUR HOPE; AND THAT REMAINS OUR HOPE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A NEW TARGET DATE FOR THAT CONFERENCE?

A. NO. WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC TARGET DATE FOR A CONFERENCE.

Q. DOES "CONSTRUCTIVE" APPLY EQUALLY TO THE TALKS THAT CONCERN SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK?

A. YES. "CONSTRUCTIVE" APPLIES TO ALL THE SUBJECTS. LET ME SAY -- AND I THINK JODY SAID YESTERDAY AFTERNOON-- THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES WHICH REMAIN WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF SETTLEMENTS. BUT WE HAVE A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING NOW -- BOTH WE OF THE ISRAELI POSITION AND THEY OF OUR POSITION.

Q. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS THE WAY YOU WANT TO PLAY IT BUT DOES THE WAY YOU WANT TO PLAY IT CONFORM TO YOUR OWN REALISTIC EXPECTATION OF WHETHER THERE WILL BE A GENEVA CONFERENCE LATER THIS YEAR?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT.

Q. YOU HAVE SAID THAT THE IDEA OF A PAN-ARAB DELEGATION IN WHICH PALESTINIANS WOULD BE MEMBERS DESERVES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. DID SUCH AN IDEA RECEIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION FROM THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER DURING THE TALKS YESTERDAY?

A. I REALLY DON'T THINK I'D WANT TO GET INTO THE SPECIFICS OF WHAT WENT ON IN THOSE MEETINGS -- BOTH THE LARGER UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 226141

MEETING AS WELL AS THE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND MR. DAYAN -- AND THEN THE SERIES OF MEETINGS WHICH MR. VANCE HAS HAD WITH MR. DAYAN.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT MR. VANCE'S FURTHER MEETINGS?

WHAT'S THE SCHEDULE NOW -- THE SCHEDULE ON MEETINGS WITH THE SYRIANS AND JORDANIANS AND ALL THOSE GUYS?

A. THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IS GOING TO BE HERE TOMORROW.

MR. CARTER: HE'S (THE SECRETARY) GOING OUT TO MEET THE FOREIGN MINISTER THIS AFTERNOON. THE MEETINGS WILL BEGIN TOMORROW.

MR. SHERMAN: IT'S 10 O'CLOCK IN FRONT OF THE WHITE HOUSE, AND THEN HE'LL BE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AT 12 O'CLOCK AND THERE WILL BE A WORKING LUNCHEON AFTER THAT.

Q. WHEN DAYAN WAS IN PARIS, HE MET WITH CERTAIN EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AND WORKED OUT A DEAL, WHICH INCLUDES THE FACT THAT IF ISRAEL INVADES SOUTHERN LEBANON, EGYPT WON'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. IT INCLUDES AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT TO MOVE AGAINST OPEC. I DON'T HAVE THE SPECIFICS ON THAT, BUT OUR SOURCE FOR ALL OF THIS INFORMATION IS VERY HIGH LEVEL. IT INVOLVES THE FACT THAT CERTAINLY EUROPEAN FORCES WILL GIVE FINANCIAL AID TO EGYPT, ESPECIALLY TO ENABLE THE MILITARY TO GET SUPPLIES WHICH WILL HELP AGAINST DEVELOPING A COUP SITUATION AGAINST SADAT THERE RIGHT NOW. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT KNOW ABOUT THIS DEAL? WERE YOU IN ON IT IN ANY WAY? HAS THIS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH CARTER. IF PEOPLE IN THE ADMINISTRATION, SUCH

AS TURNER, KNOW ABOUT IT, HAVE THEY BRIEFED THE PRESIDENT?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 226141

A. I'M NOT AWARE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS; AND IF THESE DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN MR. DAYAN AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS, I SUGGEST THE PROPER PEOPLE TO ASK ABOUT THAT WOULD BE MR. DAYAN OR THE EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS WHO WERE INVOLVED. BUT I'M NOT AWARE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS.

Q. DID THE UNITED STATES RAISE WITH ISRAEL -- DID THE UNITED STATES PRESS UPON ISRAEL -- THE CONCEPT OF A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION AT GENEVA? AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE ISRAELI REACTION?

A. I THINK I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO STICK WITH WHAT WE'VE BEEN SAYING ALL ALONG HERE AT THE PODIUM, WHICH IS THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THE IDEA OF PERHAPS SOME PALESTINIAN WITHIN A PAN-ARAB DELEGATION IS AN IDEA WHICH MERITS SERIOUS CONSIDERATION; AND I THINK I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO STICK WITH THAT.

Q. HAS THE UNITED STATES TRANSMITTED A WARNING TO SYRIA

FROM ISRAEL ABOUT ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS SYRIAN  
MOBILIZATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON?

A. NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF, BUT I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION.  
I JUST HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT IT.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM ANY REPORTS ABOUT ISRAELI UNITS NOW  
ENTERING INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON?

A. I THINK I'M MORE OR LESS AT THE SAME PLACE ON THAT  
THAT I WAS YESTERDAY; AND I DID SAY YESTERDAY THAT WE  
WERE CONCERNED AT THIS RECENT ESCALATION OF FIGHTING. WE  
ARE MAKING INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO HELP STABILIZE THE SITU-  
ATION AND ARE IN CONTACT WITH ALL THE GOVERNMENTS CON-  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 226141

CERNED. THOUGH I CANNOT GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THESE  
CONTACTS, I CAN SAY THAT WE ARE URGING RESTRAINT ON ALL  
--SO AS TO PREVENT ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING IN THIS  
SENSITIVE AREA. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THESE EFFORTS ARE  
MAKING HEADWAY, BUT BEYOND THAT I CAN'T GO.

Q. IT SEEMS TO BE, FROM EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS, ISRAELI  
UNITS HAVE GONE IN; SO I GATHER THE RESTRAINT THAT YOU'VE  
URGED HAS BEEN ADHERED TO IN THE BREACH.

A. WELL, WE HAVE SEEN THE SAME REPORTS YOU HAVE ABOUT  
ISRAELI FORCES BEING IN SOUTH LEBANON. THE SITUATION  
THERE IS EXTREMELY COMPLICATED, AND AT THIS POINT I HAVE  
NOTHING TO SAY BEYOND WHAT I HAVE ALREADY SAID. WE URGE

RESTRAINT ON ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED SO AS TO HELP  
STABILIZE THE SITUATION IN THIS SENSITIVE AREA.

Q. YOU HAVE NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION THAT THERE ARE  
ISRAELI UNITS THERE BEYOND PRESS REPORTS?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THAT. THAT'S NOT TO  
SAY THAT WE DON'T HAVE INFORMATION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

Q. WITH THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER IN TOWN, HAVE YOU  
ASKED HIM?

A. YES. THE SUBJECT OF SOUTHERN LEBANON HAS BEEN DIS-  
CUSSED, BUT I HAVE NO DETAILS FOR YOU.

Q. WAS IT DISCUSSED AT LENGTH YESTERDAY?

A. I WASN'T IN THE MEETING. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THAT  
SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED, BUT I KNOW THAT IT WAS DISCUSSED  
BOTH AT THAT LEVEL AND AT OTHER LEVELS.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 226141

Q. TOM, IS THE DEPARTMENT STILL SATISFIED THAT ISRAEL'S POSSIBLE USE OF U.S. SUPPLIED WEAPONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON DOES NOT VIOLATE ANY TRANSFER AGREEMENTS?

A. I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. A KUWAITI NEWSPAPER SAID TODAY THAT THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF SECRETARY VANCE WHILE HE WAS IN ALEXANDRIA. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A. I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT. I HAVE NO COMMENT.

Q. NO COMMENT MEANING YOU HAVEN'T LOOKED INTO IT?

A. NO, I AM SORRY.

A. I HAVE NO PARTICULAR COMMENT ABOUT THAT EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THE OFFICE OF SECURITY HERE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH ATTEMPT OR POSSIBLE ATTEMPT.

VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 20-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE226141  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770342-0715  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197709114/baaaetuj.tel  
**Line Count:** 299  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 8558aa3a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 6  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1099190  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - SEPTEMBER 20  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, XF  
**To:** AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/8558aa3a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009